

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 10, 12 – 20 and 22 – 28 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 10 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,537,307) in view of Cocconi (U.S. Pat. No. ,341,075). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claims 1, 10 and 20 have been amended herein to include the allowable subject-matter of claims 3, 11 and 21, respectively. Therefore, claims 1, 10 and 20 define over the prior art and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 11 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject-matter contained therein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2 – 9, 11 – 19 and 21 - 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed in detail above, claims 1, 10 and 20 have been amended herein to include the allowable subject-matter of claims 3, 11 and 21, respectively, and claims 3, 11 and 21 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 2, 4 – 9, 12 – 19 and 22 – 28, each of which depend on one of claims 1, 10 and 20, also define over the prior art.

OTHER CLAIM AMENDMENTS

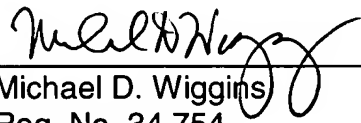
Claim 22 has been amended to depend from claim 20 in view of the amended claim 20 and cancelled claim 21.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (313) 665-4969.

Respectfully submitted,

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